Missouri Department of Mental Health
Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

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Alcohol Use in Missouri, 2002-2006

Alcohol Use

Alcohol use in Missouri has been fairly stable in recent years, according to a recent report published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Office of Applied Studies.

The SAMHSA report is based on data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an ongoing survey of the United States population 12 years or older, conducted in all states to obtain state estimates of alcohol and drug use rates. In order to increase sample sizes and obtain better estimates, data are pooled for two years. Data for a pair of years are compared with those from the previous pair of years to see if there were changes. Results are reported for all surveyed followed by for age groups: 12-17 years, 18-25 years, and 26 years and over.

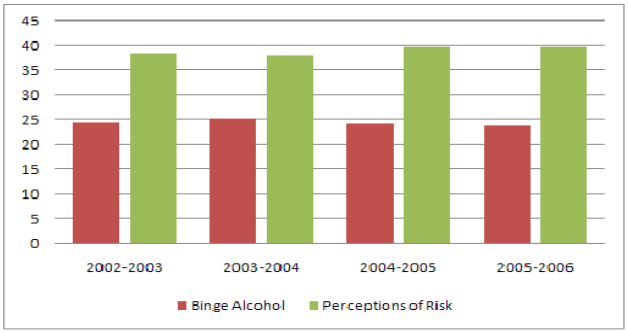
Current Alcohol Use

There were an estimated 2,402,000 current drinkers in Missouri in 2005-2006 compared to 2,485,000 in 2002-2003. Current alcohol use is defined as the consumption of at least one drink in the past 30 days.

Annual percentage of current drinkers among Missourians was significantly lower in 2005-2006, with 49.91 percent compared to 53.21 percent in 2002-2003 according to the NSDUH survey findings. There was a small increase in the current alcohol use rate among young adults aged 18-25 years from 64.52% to 65.72%. However, results indicated that alcohol use rates have declined significantly in recent years among adolescents aged 12-17 years, from 19.67% down to 17.55%, as well as among those 26 years old and over, from 55.85% down to 51.48%. Results also showed that young survey participants between 12 and 17 years of age perceived drinking of great risk.

Source:
State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health. OAS Series #H-33, DHHS Publication No. (SMA) 08-4311, Rockville, MD, 2008. http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k6state/toc.cfm

Alcohol Use Rates, 12-17 Years Old



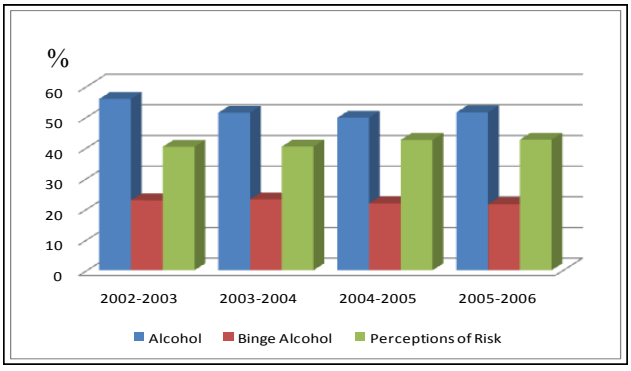
Current Binge Alcohol Use

Binge alcohol drinking rates in Missouri remained approximately the same for persons 12 years or older with no significant changes between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006 but they significantly declined among youths aged 12-17 years, from 12.61% to 10.77%. Binge alcohol use is the drinking of 5 or more drinks on the same occasion, e.g. within a couple of hours or within the same day.

Perceptions of Great Risks

The NSDUH survey asks respondents about their perceptions of the risks of consuming 5 or more drinks once or twice per week. Results indicate a small but statistically non-significant increase from 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 in the percent of persons who perceived that drinking 5 or more drinks once or twice per week was of great risk. Rates of binge drinking and perceptions of the risks of binge drinking, among adolescents and young adults show an inverse relationship.

Alcohol Use Rates, 26 Years and Over



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